To extend the Circulation to all.

A NEW EDITION, AT A REDUCED PRICE,

Containing the WHOLE of the TWO SHILLING Edition.

THE

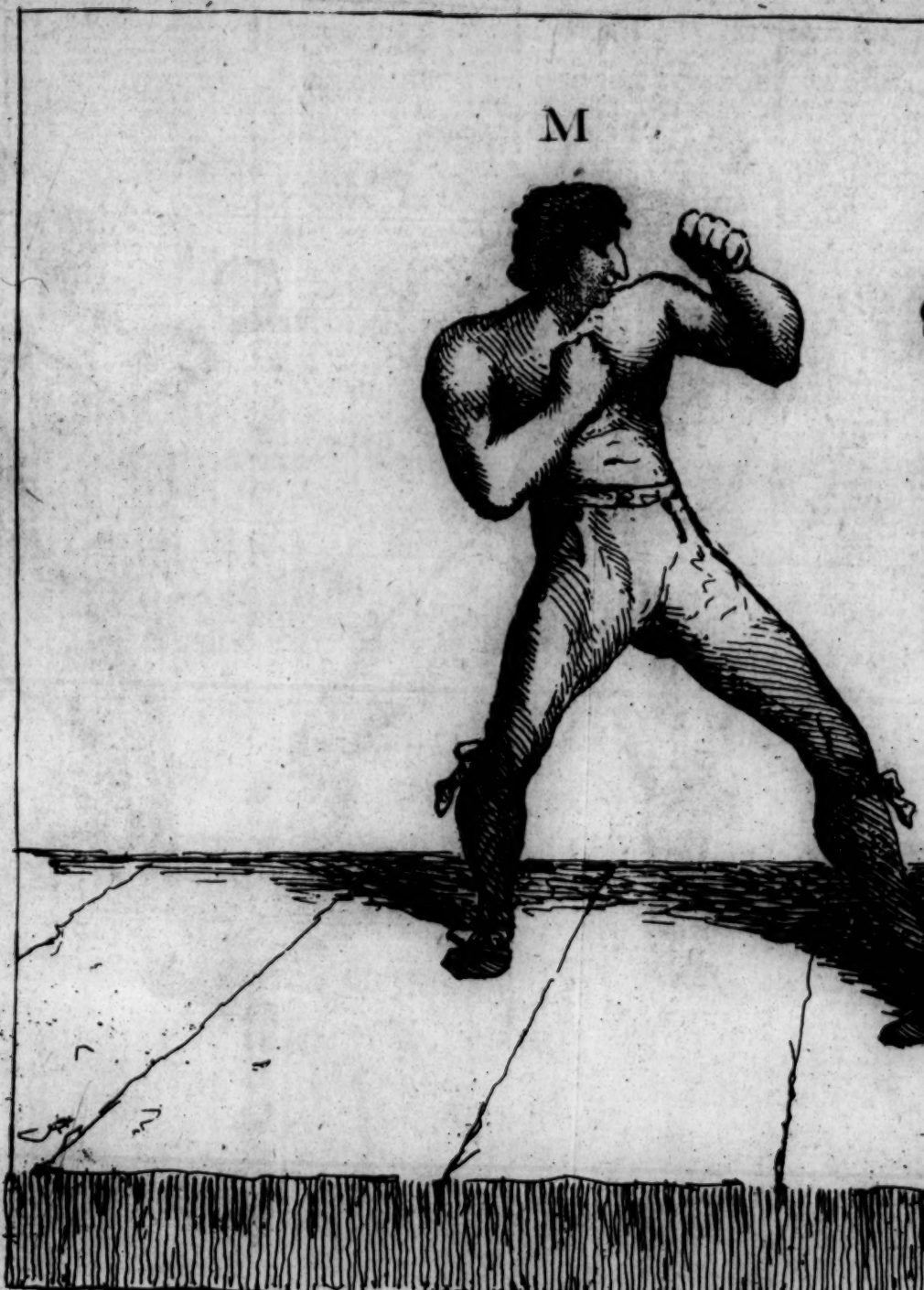
COMPLETE ART

OF

BOXING, &c.

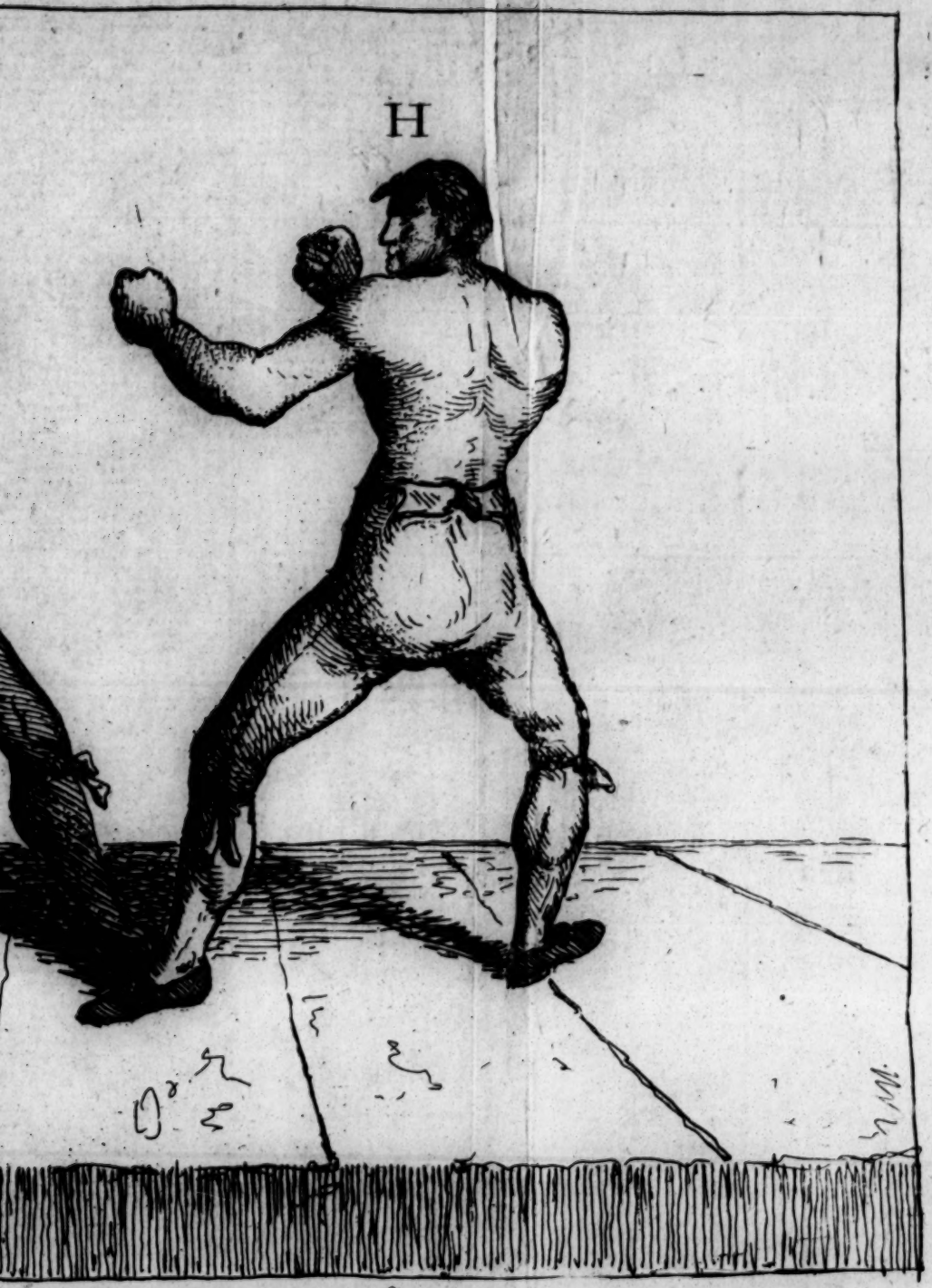
[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

BRITISH MUSEUM
10 54
NOV



HUMPHERYS and MEN

Published by M. Follings by, N.4, 1



MENDOZA *Setting-to.*

gs by N.º 1, near Temple Bar, Fleet Street.

A NEW EDITION CORRECTED.

THE COMPLETE ART OF BOXING,

ACCORDING TO THE

MODERN METHOD;

WHEREIN

The whole of that Manly Accompliſhment is rendered ſo eaſy and intelligent that any Perſon may be an entire Maſter of the Science in a few Days, without any other Inſtruction than this Book.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE GENERAL HISTORY OF BOXING.

CONTAINING

An Account of the moſt eminent Profeſſors of that noble Art, who have flouriſhed from its Commencement to the preſent Time.

By an AMATEUR of Eminence.

LONDON:

Printed for M. FOLLINGSBY, No. 4, near *Temple Bar*; and M. SMITH, at No. 46, both in *Fleet-Street*. 1788.

BRITISH MUSEUM
10 54
NOV

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE following Syſtem of the Modern Art of Boxing is a complete body of practical knowledge, deduced from the practice of the moſt celebrated maſters, viz. Meſſrs. BROUGHTON, SELLERS, SHILLANY, CORCORAN, TAYLOR, DOYLE, JOHNSON, HUMPHREYS, MENDOZA, TRING, DUNN, &c. &c. therefore the Public are preſented with real practical knowledge of all thoſe maſters at a trifling expence, and very little application; ſo that the Art can be obtained by thoſe of the moſt moderate capacity, in a few days, with little or no loſs of time. It would come but aukward from the Author of the following Work to repreſent the utility of the art to the Public, when it is obvious to the moſt inexperienced perſon that the inſults of inferiors would always be guarded againſt if a knowledge of this art was more generally underſtood by perſons in genteel life. As many low-bred people take advantage of their betters, merely becauſe they ſuppoſe them unacquainted with athletic exerciſes, and therefore too often tranſgreſs the laws of ſociety with impunity, as few are ſufficiently ſkilled in gimnaſtic ſcience to be certain of ability to chaſtiſe ſuch rudeneſs And in order to remedy ſo material a want, the following Treatiſe will be found of the utmoſt conſequence to the polite reader.

INTRODUCTION.

THE ſcience of Boxing is now become ſo faſhionable that ſome of the firſt perſonages in the kingdom are known to patronize it; therefore it is preſumed that a regular digeſt of the practical part of the art, under its proper heads, will not be unacceptable to the Public. Upon that concluſion the Author of the following conciſe Treatiſe has been at the expence and labour of ſelecting from the actual profeſſional talents of ſome of the moſt celebrated maſters the chief points of their ſkill, whereby they have arrived at their juſtly-earned fame;—ſo that this little book contains, in ſubſtance, the whole of the Modern Practice of Boxing; nor can many years attendance, at any of the academies for the tuition of this art, furniſh the pupil with a greater, nor yet ſo complete a knowledge of the practical part, as a careful reading of the following ſheets, as the eſſence

of

of the whole art is here preſented,—whether to purſue, attack, or retreat, as well as to prepare for a pitched battle. Beſide the advantages reſulting from a peruſal of this book (which may be done in private; and any perſon, though previouſly wholly inexperienced in the art, may be an adept in the ſcience in a few days, ſo as to be prepared, upon all occaſions, againſt the attacks of ruffians or inſulting inferiors) an expence of at leaſt five guineas is ſaved, together with the comfort and ſatisfaction of not being obliged to mix with unſuitable company, which muſt neceſſarily be the caſe, if a perſon receives inſtruction at an academy for Boxing. Another matter is alſo to be conſidered, that the poſſeſſors or maſters of this art are, for the moſt part, ignorant, illiterate, unintelligent men, who are totally unacquainted with politeneſs or elegance of expreſſion; ſo that all the initiated pugiliſt can have for his loſs of time, great expence, and diſagreeable mixing with ſome of the loweſt and moſt depraved part of the community is,—a dumb art of manœuvring, without a ſingle term of technical knowledge, either to judge for himſelf, or to apply to his antagoniſt at the moſt trying time of his manhood!

We offer the following Treatiſe (without vanity or deceit) as a complete tutor to all thoſe who would wiſh to be acquainted with, or inſtructed in, the Modern Practice of Boxing, ſo that they may need no other guide than the rules here laid down to acquire a perfect knowledge of the art.

The theory might have been extended to a full-ſized volume; but upon due conſideration that it would only enhance the price, without being of any ſervice to the ſtudent, and be an actual loſs of time in the peruſal of a prolix ſyſtem, we have therefore, with due regard to the ſubject, compriſed the whole body of the art in as little compaſs as poſſible, to come within the purchaſe and capacity of all ranks of people.

THE

COMPLETE ART

OF

BOXING.

THE firſt requiſites neceſſary to be known are the poſtures or attitudes in advancing, attacking, cloſely engaging and retreating, in order to preſerve the honours of the art, viz.

Upon ſeeing the object at the diſtance of about twenty yards, if in purſuit, or advancing, the pupil is to poize, by ſetting his hips as wide as he can, and ſinking the ſhoulders; then ſuppreſs the cavity of the lungs by a confined breathing, ſo as to preſerve a long wind in reſpiration: added to thoſe preparations, the neck is to be ſunk, and the arms raiſed as high as the mouth; but then extended about three quarters of their length, in a direct line from the mouth, without raiſing one hand higher than the other, as has been practiſed by ſome, to the manifeſt

nifeſt diſadvantage of the pugiliſt; for the idea of the left hand being placed to ſecure the heart, lungs, and ſtomach, by a low bending of the elbow and the clinching of the fiſt, is by no means to be recommended; nor is the right hand to ſecure the head only, by riſing it to a height nearly to the eyes, as has been formerly taught in ſome of the ſchools. On the contrary, the two hands and arms are to be directed, as has been obſerved, and the elbows gently bent outwards; then the hands ſhut with all the ſcope imaginable, ſo as to brace the arms by raiſing the muſcular veſſels, and conſequently ſtrengthening the wriſt, and helping to brace the nerves, which will neceſſarily be ruffled by the agitation of the ſpirits. But it is to be obſerved, that the fiſts are by no means to be cloſely ſhut, or the fingers preſſed into the palm; but, on the contrary, ballooned, by admitting the air to paſs in from the fiſt to the fourth finger, the little finger only laid cloſe to the ball of the thumb, and is to be covered by the extenſion of the thumb over it, ſo as to place the tip of the thumb upon the firſt joint of it.

When thus prepared in an orderly advance, the ſteps of poizing are next to be attended to.

In order to this attitude in poſition, ſink upon the left leg, and bend the knee at the ſame time about two inches lower than your uſual height, ſo as to incline the right ſide towards your antagoniſt—the right foot turning out ſo as to be in a direction with the elbow of the right hand—the right leg, knee, and thigh, as forcibly made ſtrong by muſcular exertion as you can poſſibly, which is to be done by bearing on your heel, and drawing the toes under with a degree of fervour; whereby you will readily perceive the muſcles of the thigh to riſe in their proper place, and your joints properly ſecured from giving away to ſlipping or ſtumbling.—Then you advance thus:

The

The body and limbs are to be particularly carried as before directed, and by the direction from the left to the right—three ſteps are to be taken at each movement.

POSITIONS.

1. The Brace, (or 1ſt.)
2. The Throw, (or 2d.)
3. The Square, (or 3d.)

The brace, or 1ſt, is the advance of the right foot by a direct line towards the object of attack; which is to be done by a heavy tread and a manlineſs of increaſe in the ſtamp of the foot, ſo as to brace the knee by a firmneſs of gait to be prepared for any ſudden attack.

The throw, or 2d, is done by the advance of the left leg about half a yard, ſo as to place the foot in the ſame direction as the poſition from which it was removed, and thereby gain upon the opponent in a right direction to the advantage of ground or ſituation, which is to be performed by a quick motion, as the next ſtep is to be gained inſtantly, therefore muſt be attended to with all poſſible diſpatch.

The ſquare, or 3d, is a quick ſtep of the right foot, to precede the left, from the ſecond poſition, or the throw-in, ſo as to bring the right foot about two-and-twenty inches diſtant from the left, in ſuch a direction, as to preſent the heel of the right foot to be in a line with the middle of the inſide part of the left. Yet under ſuch a balance, or poize of body, that the right foot is not more than eleven inches before the left, in proximity to the object of attack—as this exactneſs in poize will always enſure a ſteady bar point.

It is to be obſerved, that in the firſt ſetting poſitions, or attitude of advance, that the right foot

ſhould

ſhould be but four or five inches in a direction to the object of purſuit or attack.

Theſe ſteps, which are in the technical terms of this art called the bar movements, are eſſential points never to be omitted, and are to be firſt practiſed with exactneſs, before the pupil attempts to the manœuvres of the ambidexter.

The beating of time, in One—Two—Three, will help the ſtudent very much to his bar-points. But above all, his inclining his joints in bending, as herein before directed, as what has been ſaid on that head muſt not in any particular be omitted.

Next thing we come to ſpeak of, is the active buſineſs of attack, which is to be performed by a regular ſtandard of order, divided into three general maxims, each of which is ſubdivided into three ſtanding rules.

POSTURES.

OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE MANŒUVRES.

1. The upper view.
2. The lower view.
3. The caſual projection.

In the firſt general maxim the rules are as follow:

1. The direction of ſight.
2. The inclination of the head.
3. The diſpoſition of the guards.

When you attack give your antagoniſt as little time as poſſible to direct his aim, before you give your onſet, which you muſt endeavour to accompliſh over his guards, by a ſudden inclination of your head downwards, and a long guard fixed, to deceive his ward, whereby you will be certain to give him the upper mark, which is generally underſtood by the temple, the eyes, or either ear, as you ſhall be able to uſe the left or right hand.

Upon

Upon his receiving your ſalute, he will ſoon no doubt aſſail you by a retaliating blow, which is very often a fatal ſtroke to your ſucceſs in the conteſt, unleſs it is carefully managed by your defence. In order to this, ſink into your brace (1ſt), or throw (2d), ſo as to advance either upon ſhort or long guards b fore your antagoniſt can poſſibly be ready; but if in caſe he is haſty then he will in all probability fall ſhort of any of your guards, and be baulked, through the art of your manœuvres: but in either of thoſe caſes you can direct your ſquare of array, or third poſition, and be long or ſhort as you ſhall judge neceſſary.

Particular obſervation is to be made of the direction of your opponent's eye, as you can prepare your guard accordingly; for, as in fencing, a good boxer will direct his blows by aim, which are always according to his beſt judgment, where your guards lay open; therefore be as wary as poſſible to mar his attempts, by inſtantaneouſly raiſing your guard, ſo as to meet his eye, and fall it with his direction, or vary it agreeably to his purpoſe.

In this general maxim the ſecond rule immediately follows the firſt; namely, to obſerve the inclination of the head, which is for the moſt part productive of the aim of the arm, under the direction of the eye, which neceſſarily brings in the third rule of this maxim, namely, the diſpoſition of the guards; for, from the two former rules that are paſſive, do the ſubjects of this rule become active, in directing their force; for as ſoon as the head inclines to any direction particularly the eyes are fixed upon the mark, and conſequently the arm raiſed to act as the inclination prompts.

Here it will be neceſſary to obſerve the ſecond general maxim of this art, in order to direct the pupil in the ſcenes of action, as alſo to facilitate the retention

tion of its parts under their proper heads, as in this digeſt is intended to be illuſtrated.

The ſecond maxim conſiſts of the lower view, which contains theſe rules, viz.

1. The bar movements.
2. The cloſe-in.
3. The croſs-buttock grapple.

Already we have obſerved the advantages of the proper uſe of this ſtand of figures in commanding the length of the guards; ſo that a good boxer muſt conſtantly keep an eye on the right knee of his antagoniſt, and whenever he finds him on the throw (2d), to attack him in that poſture, as his guards muſt of courſe be diſarranged, and liable to a foil-claſh, or full charge, either of which implies a full ſcope above or below his guards.

The next rule is to guard againſt his cloſing in, if he is too powerful for your grapple, as oft times a fall will diſable a good boxer; and what is worſe, ſtrain the loins ſo much that you preſently become weak and languid, and totally diſcomfit you, that a breathing time is abſolutely neceſſary, and particularly ſo, if your regimen in diet has not been carefully attended to.

In this matter your beſt way is, if you wiſh to avoid a cloſe-in, vary your ground or poſition on the ſtage, but be careful that you never reſt on the throw (2d poſition), for there your antagoniſt takes you in open front; however, your legs will ſufficiently direct you, as the right muſt always precede the left, to ſecure your ſituation in attack or regular engagement.

The laſt obſervation, or rule of this maxim is, that you avoid the croſs-buttock grapple, unleſs you are entirely maſter of the art; for if your opponent once raiſes your body to grapple you over, the fall will very probably diſable you from a further attempt in ſubduing him; foraſmuch as the ſhoulders and back

are

are liable to be materially injured by ſuch a cant of the body, which your antagoniſt can only accompliſh when he cloſes you on the throw (2d poſture); for otherwiſe you are never liable to ſuch a dangerous hoiſt as this manœuvre will ſubject you to.

The croſs-buttock grapple is performed when you and your antagoniſt cloſe in with your right ſides in contact, or along ſide each other; and is gained by a low hold of the waiſtband of the breeches with the right hand, and of the right ſhoulder with the left hand; by which you capſize your opponent, by throwing him head foremoſt over your right hip, and a part of your buttock, and is of all falls the worſt, as all the upper forms are ſubject to injury by it.

We come now to treat of the third and laſt maxim of this art, which is the caſual projection; which in its parts contain the three following rules, viz.

1. The parts of acceſs.
2. The proweſs of your opponent.
3. The advantages of ground or motion.

To accelerate your conqueſt it will be requiſite to be ſo far obſervant in the attacks of your adverſary, as to learn where your direction ſhould be pointed.

In this particular you will readily ſee where your adverſary's favourite blow lies; and your only way to gain your point here will be to work upon long and ſhort poſtures, and to never riſe your arm in vain, nor yet haſten the repetition of blows; for one blow paid home will tell for ſix improperly directed.

Let your left arm be your ſhield, and ſpare the right as much as you can, unleſs your opponent is left handed; in that caſe, ply his right ſide marks in every open you can with a full ſquare or back handed mallet, by which you will ſoon diſable his guard; for the right hand (although ſtronger in muſcles) cannot bear the tanning of the left.

If the guards of your adverſary are very high, baulk him by two or three feints at his belly; but never ſtrike home ſo low, unleſs you come to his quarter; that is to ſay, under the ſhort rib of the left ſide; for here, as well as at the pit of the ſtomach, you may unwind him, and by following your blow, ſow up his talents; however, this manœuvre will lower his guard and put you into a field of new acquiſition; for one blow well told to the upper tire (the head) tells better than three below; for here lies the beſt ſeat of work, and will undoubtedly ſerve your purpoſe; for a lug, a temple, a jaw, an eye, or mouth-piece, often gives the word *enough* when two dozen lower baits would have proved ineffectual to accompliſh it.

By the ſecond rule of this maxim you are to form an opinion of your adverſary's ſkill and ſtrength, in order to aſcertain what movements are neceſſary to ſtem the torrent of his ardour; and in ſo doing, if you find him above or below the par of your own abilities, deal with him according to your ſkill in manœuvring him in various poſitions; for in removing an Hercules you make him vulnerable by a new ſtatement of aſſault.

Here it becomes proper to enlarge on the laſt rule of this maxim, to take in a complete idea of your adverſary's turn, whether in guards, attitudes, or general mark; for in any length of time to hold out, the odd meaſure of a ſingle delve may decide the conteſt; therefore it is worthy your attention, for your ſtage walk will always enable you to advance or retreat at pleaſure, and afford you a ſuperiority over thoſe that may be double your ſtrength, who have not the method of boxing here treated of. Hence it will appear to every one who has any idea of defence that, diſcipline, reduced to general maxims and ſtanding

rules,

rules, render the air ſo eaſy and intelligent that the adventitious combatant has but a poor ſtake againſt the initiated adept; therefore ſleight in this ſcience will accompliſh what ſtrength and reſolution cannot.

In cloſe engagement or retreat the foregoing ſtanding rules will always bear the teſt of action, and only admit of one obſervation, which is, that, in retreat, the given ſteps one, two, three, are always to be obſerved in going backwards as well as forwards.

The ſinking of the ſpirits often betrays the champion into actions unworthy of himſelf, and creates fear, ſhame, and diſgrace, where ſucceſs and honour might have been depended upon. Hence it may be judged how neceſſary it is to keep up the animal ſpirits; and in order to this we ſhall begin with a regular proceſs for a champion who wiſhes to qualify himſelf for a pitched battle, whereby all who would wiſh to be eminent in the profeſſion may adopt as much of the method of preparation as they may judge neceſſary.

A champion ſhould have ten days or a fortnight to prepare for a good battle, during which time the following regimen and exerciſe ſhould be obſerved.

To commence his preparation with an evening's warm bath for the feet, legs, and the ſmall of the thighs; and afterwards, as ſoon as he is quite cool, to waſh the loins with cold ſpring or pump water, not omitting the face, hands, and arms; but to uſe no ſoap in any of thoſe bathings or waſhings; then to retire early to reſt upon a ſupper of runnet milk, or milk-pottage, and to eat ſparingly of bread, butter, or ſalt.

The morning's beverage to be throughout the whole time runnet whey and hard white biſcuit without ſeeds.

Dinner to be alternately ſtewed veal, (with rice) and well-fed fowls, (with a melt or two in the latter) boiled to a jelly, and no tea in the afternoon, but

inſtead thereof a ruſk and chocolate early in the evening, with ſupper as before; and as for drink throughout the preparation, it ſhould be only red wine mingled with water—and in no wiſe to uſe either porter, table-beer, ales, or ſpirituous liquors, and to drink not more than a glaſs or two after dinner; but before dinner half a pint, or a pint mulled will do no harm, provided you have had a glaſs or two of ſtrong jelly before it; but a ruſk, or a cruſt well toaſted, is neceſſary to eat with it, then no danger is to be feared. However, ſalts or acid juices are to be avoided all the time ſo devoted to dieting; yet lump ſugar is not prohibited; but if the habit requires it, half a pint of claret mulled at night, with a good deal of lump ſugar, is recommended; but neither blood letting or phyſic is recommended, as the cooling of the body, and ſtrengthening the fluids, can in no wiſe be done if either of thoſe coolers are uſed, if the patient wiſhes to ſecure his ſucceſs; for, excluſive of the ſeveral things preſcribed as eatables, &c. particular hours of reſt and recreation are to be obſerved, viz.

To go to bed exactly at nine at night, and to riſe at five in the morning; to breakfaſt at ſeven, ruſk and wine at eleven, dine at one, chocolate at four, ſup at ſeven, and from that hour until bed-time, to be entertained with martial muſic (if poſſible) as it will tend to enable him to form an heroic ſtate of ſpirits, and make his dreams agreeable; and finally, add to his vivacity and ſerenity of thought; for the mind muſt not be ruffled or agitated, nor no painful ſenſation ſuffered to invade the conceptive faculties, but every thing conducted with harmony and livelineſs.

The mornings ſhould be ſpent in an early walk, firſt breaking the faſt with a ſingle gingerbread nut (ſteeped in Hollands Geneva), and the whole not to exceed a mile; and then to return very ſlow, to

avoid

avoid heating the body; and to preſerve it ſo, lay cool at night.

The morning of engagement to eat no more than a ſingle ſlice of bread, well toaſted without butter, or a hard white biſcuit toaſted, and about a pint of beſt red wine mulled, with a table ſpoonful of brandy in it.—This to be taken an hour preceding the time of dreſſing.

On the ſtage to have your drink made up as follows:—Hollands, bitters, and fine China-orange juice, with ſome lump ſugar diſſolved, to a palatable ſtrength, as you may be inclined to chuſe it; when, with proper knowledge of the rules laid down in this book, we doubt not but you will be a match for the firſt champion of the age.

Having now fulfilled our promiſe to the public on this head, we offer it with all due reſpect, hoping they may reap fruits from our labours, as our wiſh is to put into the hands of every man a practical inſtructor, to preſerve him from thoſe dangers that his prudence may judge neceſſary to guard againſt; and in our opinion he will reap profits to atone amply for his expence and trouble in the purchaſe and reading of this uſeful Treatiſe.

The technical terms may ſeem rather harſh and diſcordant, and in ſome reſpects low, that are uſed in this art: but except we were to alter the known phraſes that are in uſe in the modern ſyſtem, we could not have given the inſtructions complete, without making uſe of thoſe terms, which we have taken care to explain as often as they have occurred.

End of the Firſt Part.

THE

PREFACE.

THE Author of the foregoing Treatiſe, as well as of the following Compendium of Hiſtory, with the greateſt diffidence as to his ability, but with the moſt profound reſpect, offers this work to the public, relying on the candour and indulgence of a generous ſpirited people, who are ever willing to encourage ſcience, be it on what ſubject it may: therefore, upon ſuch national aſſurances of protection he preſents this little volume as a gift, which he hopes will be found worthy of their acceptance.

Hitherto there has been but imperfect ſketches of hiſtorical records, reſpecting the art here treated of in the ſecond part of this book; nor were the occurrences in any reſpect properly arranged, ſo as to afford any ſatisfactory knowledge of the riſe and progreſs of this manly art; therefore he has with ſome difficulty procured authentic documents, from which he has drawn the following narrative of hiſtorical facts.

He is well aware of many oppoſers to the general reading of this work, who, through a pretended zeal for

for religion and ſoberneſs of life, treat ſuch productions with the moſt ſevere acerbity, as though it ſhould tend to a ſubverſion of morals, or an interpolation of the manners of the people. Notwithſtanding ſuch party prejudice of weak and inexperienced perſons, who may be inclined to cavil upon ſuch a novelty (as this work) being introduced to the public, yet he is not fearful of being deſerted by the ſenſible and diſcriminating part of the community, as his efforts to afford the public a ſtatement of an art that, until his ſedulous care, had never been digeſted under its proper heads, as a regular liberal ſcience. Hence he ſuppoſes, that inſtructions to defend one's ſelf againſt the attacks of a ruffian, will not be taken amiſs; ſo that thoſe who are not inclined to be adepts in athletic exerciſes, may, without animoſity to the hiſtoriogapher of this modern faſhionable art, read the following hiſtory, and reſerve their opinions for the author's next treatiſe on this ſubject.

PART SECOND.

THE GENERAL HISTORY OF BOXING.

TO trace the origin of this gymnaſtic exerciſe will neceſſarily oblige us to date it from the days of Nimrod, the ſon of Cuſh, who was ſaid to be not only a mighty hunter, but dextrous in the ſleight of manhood, inſomuch that he was by the voice of the people proclaimed their chief leader (or prince) for his victorious arm in overcoming the ſon of Canaan, whereby he eſtabliſhed his throne in Shinar, Sidon his competitor being obliged to remove from thence, with all his houſehold; and in this conteſt neither champion was allowed any weapon, but were by efforts of ſtrength and proweſs in manly exerciſes adjudged by an umpire to which the victory was given. Hence may be inferred that each of thoſe champions exerted their utmoſt endeavours in ſtrength and agility to vanquiſh his antagoniſt, as a diadem was annexed to the fortune of the conqueror.

But

But whether thoſe Eaſtern heroes fought upon a ſtage agreeably to our modern taſte, or upon a platform, or the plain, we will not venture to determine, and only obſerve to our readers, that this champion, to whom we aſcribe the ſource of this manly exerciſe, was the great grandſon of Noah, and was born about two thouſand two hundred and eighteen years before Chriſt's circumciſion, which is aſſerted as a fact by that learned antiquary and hiſtorian of credit, Strabo, to whom we beg leave to refer our readers, who are curious upon this article, as it gives a greater ſcope to the hiſtory of this art than our modern writers were aware of, as moſt of thoſe who have wrote hints on the ſubject date their hiſtorical facts or occurrences within the annals of the preſent century.

Even Captain Godfrey, who celebrated our countryman as the ambidextrian hero of the age, when he gives the palm to him, in a laconic ſtyle, by boldly aſſerting, that " John Broughton is the greateſt " hero in athletic exerciſes that this or any other " nation ever produced."

Here we may be ſatisfied that the Captain was unacquainted with the hiſtory of the founder of the Babyloniſh Empire, otherwiſe he would not have given precedency to a yeoman of the Britiſh guards to that of ſuch a potentate as we have juſt now mentioned.

Captain Godfrey, in his treatiſe on this art, publiſhed in the year 1742, ſeems inclined to think that this ſcience (as he calls it) was firſt introduced into this country from Italy, as in one of his characters he ſets forth, that in the days of the celebrated Whitaker, an Italian, a native of Florence, (though ſome ſay of Venice) named Gondolier, challenged all England to ſingle combat, and was known in the Steel-yard by the name of " The Goliah of the Continent." However this Philiſtine did not long

wait for David, for, in a few days, Whitaker applied at the bar of Slaughter's Coffee-houſe, and left conditions of his propoſal, addreſſed to the then Earl of Angleſey, who was the chief ſportſman in that line in thoſe times.

As Whitaker laid great ſtreſs upon his ability, "in "bearing an extraordinary ſhare of beating," the nobleman was induced to lay conſiderable betts in his favour, and accordingly ſent Gondolier a challenge to fight this honeſt ſon of Vulcan, which took place ſoon after at Fig's booth in Paddington-fields, where cudgel and foil play (or fencing) was then practiſed, under the reſpectability of our modern polite term of an academy.

The champions met here, and on their preparing for battle the ſpectators were aſtoniſhed at the diſparity of perſons, the one a Goliah indeed! the other a dapper David! The Engliſhmen preſent were all concerned for the fate of their champion, whilſt the Italians, Germans, and Dutch, as well as the French and Swiſs merchants, who eſpouſed Gondolier's quarrel, were exulting in the certainty of their gains upon the victory of their champion.

The ſtage whereon the combatants were to exhibit their ſkill was without any railing, and built in the form of a parallelogram, of twenty-four feet by forty-eight, but ſo high that the champions and their ſeconds aſcended by a ladder of eight ſteps, ſo that we may conclude the ſtage was upwards of ſix feet high: The Italian bruiſer had by long practice reduced his knowledge to a ſort of a ſcience, by digeſting the attitudes under their diſtinct heads; and upon the firſt advance of Whitaker, deſired him "to be-"ware," a phraſe not underſtood by Whitaker; but as the latter was advancing to attack *à l'Angloiſe*, the tall Italian raiſed his Herculean arm, and, with a mighty ſwing, brought his clenched fiſt to meet in contact

contact with the head of the Engliſh blackſmith, which had ſo great an effect upon the latter, that he quickly deſcended from the place of action, under the legal term of a " knock-down blow."

Here the foreigners gave a loud huzza! to the mortification of the Engliſh auditors; but as the fallen champion had received no other injury than a ſurpriſe at the novelty of the Italian's ſalute, as the fall was but a trifle compared to the headlong tumbles of this veteran, ſo that he mounted the ſtage with the greateſt alacrity, at the ſame time ſhewing a ſurpriſing agility of body, as he jumped upon the ſtage in a ſtanding leap, and then accoſting his antagoniſt, gave him to underſtand he knew his mark (meaning his aim at the head), but that Gondolier was a ſtranger to his, however he ſhould ſoon be acquainted with it.

Hereupon Whitaker advanced, and gave the Italian an Engliſh peg, or what the moderns term " a dart to the mark," *i. e.* a dig, or lunge, under the ſhort rib, on the left ſide, whereby the champion of the Continent was deprived of reſpiration for a few minutes; and Whitaker, mending his blow, by a ſhort arm fiſt to the left of the ſtomach, nearly oppoſite the ſeat of life, completely vanquiſhed the foreigner, ſo that he gave up the conteſt in favour of the Engliſh champion, to the entire ſatisfaction of the Engliſh audience, but to the mortification of the body of the foreigners preſent, who, with their champion Gondolier, declared that the blows upon the body were not according to the practice of the art. However in this point they were ſoon overruled, as the umpire declared all ſtanding blows to be fair.—Thus far Captain Godfrey, in his book entitled " The Characters of the Boxers," has aimed to give the Italians the honour of introducing this manly art into our iſland, whereas the contrary is

the

the fact; therefore, to omit the uſeleſs definitions of particular periods that might give riſe to athletic exerciſes upon the Aſiatic, African, or European continents, we ſhall content ourſelves by adhering ſolely to the hiſtory of this art ſo far as it relates to our own country, and at once pronounce that this gymnaſtic game of ambidextrian exerciſe is wholly Britiſh, or at leaſt peculiarly ſo, as the hiſtory of early times will clearly evince.

Let us only look back to the records of time, and obſerve the truly heroic diſcipline of the great Alfred, the Britiſh King, when it is clearly demonſtrated that boxing and wreſtling were part of the manual exerciſe of the ſoldiery of thoſe times, and was practiſed under various manœuvres, as were comprehended under particular technical terms of art, which Leland, in his Britiſh Antiquities, particularly points out as paſſages to prove that the ancient Britons were a ſtrong, robuſt, and manly people, inured to exerciſes of ſtrength and manhood, conſequently a warlike people, and might with juſtice be called a nation of heroes.

The ſame author of credit and reſpectable mention ſpeaks of the ſucceſſors of this great monarch down to Ironſide, in the year 1017, the time of the Daniſh invaſion, to be a hardy people; and, during the reigns of ten ſucceeding monarchs, gives the natives the juſt and impartial appellation of veterans and heroic men.

Upon the invaſion of Canute in 1018, the Danes became maſters of the Engliſh nation, whom the ſame author makes mention of as a hardy people, and much proportioned to the natives of this iſle, as being ſtout and robuſt, and given to the like exerciſes of manly feats.—Hence we may conclude, that the gymnaſtic games were not laid aſide, but continued down to the Norman Conqueſt.

Upon

Upon the demiſe of Harold the IId. in 1066, William Duke of Normandy aſcended the Engliſh throne, as the conqueror of this iſland, with a deſign to diſpoſſeſs the Picts and Scots of the northern kingdom, which however he declined attempting to do.

Cambden, as well as other hiſtorians, has obſerved, upon the commencement of this reign, that the nation entered into a degeneracy, by imbibing ſome of the effeminate pretended refinements of the Conquerors, who were every way inferior to the conquered people, and who were only overcome by a kind of diſunion on the death of their King (Harold II.) as having no leader to direct their armies; for upon the King's death ſeveral of the generals of the Britiſh ſoldiery forſook their poſts, merely to canvaſs for the diſpoſal of the crown, and were not aware of the conſequences until they were ſurpriſed by the invaders, who ſoon after put all opponents to cruel deaths.

For it is a well known fact to every hiſtoriographer of this nation, that had King Harold eſcaped the fatal arrow by which he was ſlain, that William of Normandy and all his men, of every denomination, would have fallen a ſacrifice to the veteran troops of the defunct monarch.

Upon the acceſſion of this monarch to the Engliſh throne, the natives became leſs addicted to exploits of manhood, as has been before obſerved, and gave up their favourite paſtimes for fore and back edges and points, which anſwers to the modern broad and ſmall ſwords. By the exerciſe of the former they were enabled to form a military diſcipline to engage with their northern neighbours; and by the latter, with thoſe on the ſouth, namely, the inhabitants of Gaul and Spain, who uſed the long poignard

poignard or ſmall ſword in their methods of fighting.

During the reigns of the Norman line, England greatly degenerated; ſo that on the extinction of that royal line, in a period of only 105 years, the natives had become by far leſs manly and warlike than at any former period preceding the Conqueſt. However, the ancient ſpirit of the people revived on reſtoring the Saxon line; for in the days of Henry II. "The Laws of Rights," or, "The Challenger's Claim," was paſſed into a law by the king and the barons, at a ſolemn court held in a great field between Staines and Egham, wherein King John afterwards ratified the Magna Charta.

By this law the plaintiff had a right to challenge the defendant to ſingle combat, and depended upon his ſucceſs agreeably to the juſtice or equity of his claim, by which law the innocent were liable to fall as well as the guilty: but in theſe times faith had ſome power to influence thoſe who profeſſed Chriſtianity; for in many inſtances, where the accuſed or defendant was conſcious that he illegally detained the complainant or plaintiff's right, he made a ſolemn confeſſion of his guilt, and peaceably yielded up to the claimant that which was his due, upon no other ſuppoſition than that his guilt would inevitably ſubject him to fall by the hands of his antagoniſt!—Query, whether our laws are now amended?—for we may queſtion in thoſe early days of dawning refinement, from various cuſtoms of barbarity in this land, whether there were any ſuch beings known as pettifoggers, corrupt magiſtrates, or ſtag-witneſſes. We are rather inclined to think there were none of thoſe vile tools of modern practice, who, inſtead of uſing the excellent principles of our conſtitutional laws, overturn the ſalutary effects which would reſult from an honeſt practice in the Courts of Record, or upon the

the benches of Magiſtracy; but, alas, we have no hope!—Though perhaps when as many years have rolled through the twelve aſpects as there has ſince the days of the Conqueſt, the modern practice of Quacks or Empirics in Law may be changed into a ſyſtem of practice for a ſet of honeſt men!!!

But to reſume our hiſtory.—Let us obſerve that, under the Saxon line, the Engliſh nation flouriſhed in feats of arms; and upon the demiſe of Richard II. the royal line of Lancaſter ſucceeded to the crown, which continued in the names of three Henry's, viz. the 4th, 5th, and 6th, when the royal line of York ſucceeded; and, during the reigns of both thoſe houſes, gymnaſtic exerciſes were in daily uſe; for, by the records * of the laſt of the latter houſe, (Richard III.) it is ſaid that he was expert at "raiſing the ſling, drawing the bow, throwing the "javelin and dart, but particularly at manly feats "on foot and on horſeback, in wielding his arm to "oppoſe his antagoniſt with a clenched fiſt."—Hence we may infer that manly exerciſes were not accounted complete without including the ambidextrian or boxing art; by which it may be underſtood, that in thoſe days the nervous ſyſtem was ſtrengthened as much as poſſible, as on a ſtrong and ſteady arm depended a man's whole ſafety, whether in the field of the enemy or in the exerciſes of faſhionable amuſements.

In thoſe days the apparent heirs to crowns did not omit this neceſſary and manly accompliſhment, which gave a ſtrength of body and mind by a regular exerciſe of it, as we find ſmall-ſized men to be by hardy exploits ſo inured to feats of manhood, that they acquired immortal honour when oppoſed to their natural enemies, as may be inſtanced in the laſt

* In the King's library.

monarch

monarch to the union of the royal red and white roſes of York and Lancaſter, in the perſon of Richard III. for had the fight been, as Shakeſpear would fain make us believe between Richard and Richmond, the latter would never have mounted the throne, he afterwards uſurped under the title of Henry VII. nor would the Tudors ever have been a royal family in this iſle; for the little Britiſh ambidextrian hero, although he mounted a hunch back with other deformities, yet, by a conſtant exerciſe of manly exploits, he had an arm of amazing ſtrength, as many of Richmond's beſt troops were witneſſes.

But, as we don't wiſh to enter upon any other ſubject than the topic firſt announced, we ſhall for brevity's ſake paſs from thence to the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, under James I. in 1603, and only obſerve, that, from that period to the acceſſion of the Houſe of Brunſwick, the manly art of boxing declined very conſiderably, as in the reign of James I. the proper uſe of cannon was known to the Britiſh navy; for in the former reigns of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary I. and Elizabeth, the pitching of javelins, darts, and handſpikes, was in uſe in ſea-fights as well as in battles on land, ſo that manly ſtrength was required, and ſleight therefore was carefully attended to by all ranks of men.

For in the ſhips that attacked the Spaniſh Invincible Armada, (as they ſtyled their force) in the days of Queen Elizabeth, none of the Britiſh ſhips mounted more than 48 guns, which were all upon one deck, and without carriages to elevate them, therefore of little ſervice in thoſe days, to diſable an enemy's ſhip; ſo that we may naturally conclude that as we became verſed in the uſe of fire arms we through negligence loſt that excellency of art, by which our nation was diſtinguiſhed for ſkill and heroic courage; nor were three to one of any enemy accounted

counted odds worthy of notice, until the uſe of fire arms became known to the European nations.

We have now in our compendious Treatiſe deſcended to the reign of George I. when fire arms were in their zenith, and almoſt all other weapons totally neglected; but upon being convinced that other weapons were equally uſeful in battle, particularly in cloſe engagements either by ſea or land, it was judged neceſſary to train the ſoldiery for both ſervices to their uſe, as in the ſucceeding reign (Geo. II.) it was found of great utility; for in the battle of Dettengen it is acknowledged that a few troops of cavalry forced the lines of the enemy, and gave the French a total defeat by the ſtrength of the arm joined with a broad ſword; as alſo the bayonet of the infantry: which excellent diſcipline has been continued ever ſince, as our enemies have been convinced of by woful experience.

Now we ſhall recommence our hiſtory after a chaſm of nearly 125 years, in which time we ſhall ſuppoſe one art was gaining footing whilſt the other was continually loſing ground; but as we have arrived at the criſis in which manhood or manlineſs was united with ſkill in arts and ſciences, we ſhall notice the viciſſitudes ſince that period.

Though the faſhionable art of boxing has never been licenſed, and affords an inſtance of the repugnance that may for a time ſubſiſt between the laws and the manners of a nation, it was about the year 1742 as regular an exhibition as we now ſee at any of the public places of amuſement, the theatres only excepted. It was encouraged by the firſt ranks of the nobility, patronized by the firſt ſubjects in the realm, and tolerated by the magiſtrates!

Before the eſtabliſhment of Broughton's amphitheatre, a booth was erected at Tottenham-court, in which the proprietor, George Taylor, invited the profeſſors

profeſſors of the art to diſplay their ſkill, and the public to be preſent at its exhibition.

The bruiſers then had the reward due to their proweſs, in a diviſion of the entrance money, which ſometimes was an hundred or an hundred and fifty pounds.

The general mode of ſharing was for two thirds to go to the winning champion, while the remaining third was the right of the loſer, though ſometimes by an expreſs agreement of the parties the conqueror and the vanquiſhed ſhared alike.

Although many of the public prints with a degree of aſperity hold forth upon the brutality of the modern rage for manly exerciſes, which the Frenchified Engliſh effeminate ſcribblers profeſs to ſatirize —but to ſoar above the trifling ſquibs of cowardly petit maitres, let us view thoſe heroes that exerciſed their ſkill half a century ago, and compare their days with the preſent period, copying the advertiſements which are taken from newſpapers of thoſe times.

Nov. 22, 1742.

" THIS is to acquaint all true lovers of man-
" hood, that at the Great Booth, Tottenham-court,
" to-morrow, being the 23d inſtant, it is believed
" there will be one of the moſt ſevere boxing
" matches that has been fought for many years,
" between Richard Hawes, backmaker, and Tho-
" mas Smallwood, for 50l. The known hardineſs
" and intrepidity of theſe two men will render it
" needleſs to ſay any thing in their praiſe.

" Gentlemen are deſired to come ſoon; for, as
" this battle has been deferred a fortnight, at the
" particular

" particular deſire of ſeveral noblemen and gentle-
" men, a full houſe is early expected.

" There will be ſeveral bye-battles as uſual;
" particularly one between the noted Buckhorſe
" and Harry Grey for two guineas. And a good
" day's diverſion may be depended upon."

DAILY ADVERTISER.

April 26, 1742.

" AT the Great Booth at Tottenham-Court, on
" Wedneſday the 28th inſtant, will be a trial of
" manhood between the following champions, *viz.*
" Whereas I William Willis (commonly called by
" the name of the Fighting Quaker) having fought
" Mr. Smallwood about twelve months ago, and
" bruiſed and battered him more than ever he en-
" countered before, though I had the ill-fortune to
" be beat by an accidental fall; the ſaid Small-
" wood, fluſhed with the ſucceſs blind Fortune had
" then given him, and the weak attempts of a few
" Iriſhmen and boys that have of late fought him
" for a minute or two, makes him think himſelf
" unconquerable: To convince him of the falſity of
" which, I invite him to fight me for 10l. at the
" time and place above-mentioned, when I doubt
" not but I ſhall prove what I have aſſerted, by
" pegs, darts, hard blows, and croſs-buttocks.

" WILLIAM WILLIS."

" N. B. The doors will be open at ten, and the
" combatants mount at twelve. There will be ſe-
" veral bye-battles as uſual, particularly one be-
" tween John Divine and John Tipping for 5l.
" each."

May 4, 1742.

" AT the Booth in Tottenham-Court, to-mor-
" row, May the 5th inſtant, will be a trial of man-
" hood between the following champions, *viz.*
" Whereas I John Francis (commonly called by the
" name of the Jumping Soldier) who have always
" had the reputation of a hearty fellow, and have
" fought ſeveral bruiſers in the ſtreet, &c. nor am
" aſhamed to mount the ſtage when my manhood
" is called in queſtion by an Iriſh braggadocio
" bruiſer, whom I fought ſome time ago at Totten-
" ham-Court (in a bye-battle) for twelve minutes;
" and though I had not the ſucceſs due to my cou-
" rage and ability in the art of boxing, do invite
" him to fight me for two guineas, at the time and
" place above mentioned, where I doubt not I ſhall
" give him the truth of a good beating.

" JOHN FRANCIS."

" I Patrick Henly, known to every one for the
" truth of a good fellow, who never refuſed any
" one on or off the ſtage, and fight as often for the
" diverſion of gentlemen as for money, do accept
" the challenge of this Jumping Jack; and ſhall, if
" he don't take care, give him one of my bothering
" blows, which will convince him of his ignorance
" in the art of boxing.

"PATRICK HENLY."

This laſt advertiſement appeared alſo in the Daily Advertiſer, and is, together with the others, a curious ſpecimen of the boaſting ſtyle uſed by thoſe boxers in challenging each other.

It

It muſt not, however, be ſuppoſed that the challengers were penned by the reſpective parties—but of their reſpective principal bett holders; and afterwards embelliſhed by the Clerk of the Booth, who was no leſs a man than the celebrated Theophilus Cibber, Eſq.

The Tottenham-court Booth was the only ſtage on which theſe profeſſors, or, as they were uſually ſtyled, "Maſters of the Boxing Art," diſplayed their proweſs, till Broughton, patroniſed and encouraged by ſome of the nobility and gentry, built his amphitheatre in 1742.

George Taylor, the proprietor of the Booth, was himſelf a very able practitioner, and welcomed every champion who offered himſelf to fight, by giving him the truth of a good drubbing!

But it was not pugiliſts alone that diſtinguiſhed themſelves on theſe ſtages, nor were the conteſts confined to ſingle matches, for oftentimes a battle royal was fought by four or five of a ſide equally matched.

Likewiſe, there were frequent exhibitions of ſkill by the profeſſors of the broad ſword and quarter-ſtaff, as the advertiſement following will give a curious example.

Sept. 6, 1742.

"AT the Great Booth at Tottenham-court, on "Wedneſday next the 8th inſtant, there will be a "ſevere trial of ſtrength by the following Maſters.

"Whereas there was a ſevere battle fought be-"tween Mr. Johnſon and Mr. M'Arty, who has "had the ill fortune to have a large piece cut out "of his head, which has ſo much enraged this "Hibernian hero, that he has vowed revenge—and "ſaid he could never leave London without another "trial with the ſaid Johnſon, in which combat he

" would either retrieve his loſs, or otherwiſe ſubmit " to a fate he has been a ſtranger to; the un- " daunted Johnſon, not having the leaſt regard to " this bold ſailor's threats, has agreed to fight him " on the following terms, viz. to begin the weapons " backward, and he that gives the moſt bleeding " wounds at ſword, and moſt blows at quarter-ſtaff, " to have the firſt 5l. out of the box, and the reſt " to be ſhared as uſual.

" Attendance given at three o'clock, and the " Maſters mount the ſtage at half after four, by the " reaſon the days are ſhort.

" To entertain the gentlemen while the houſe fills, " there will be a hat played for at cudgels, which " will be given to him that breaks the moſt heads."

DAILY ADVERTISER.

In the leading circumſtances of this conteſt a remarkable ſimilarity ſubſiſts to that which lately took place between Johnſon and Ryan.

Johnſon was in his line the firſt champion of England, and a native of Yorkſhire; ſo is the Johnſon of the preſent day. He fought an Iriſh ſailor and beat him, and in the courſe of the battle gave him a cut on the forehead; the very ſame thing was done by Johnſon againſt Ryan in the late fight near Stains. The Iriſh ſailor was diſſatisfied with the deciſion of the combat and wiſhed to fight again; which is exactly the caſe with Ryan. So far the parallel is exact.

The only circumſtance in which the two occurrences differ are, the one was with ſword and quarter-ſtaff, the other with fiſts.

In the firſt the vanquiſhed combatant made no charge or complaint of foul play, in the laſt there was a great deal of partiality, and the match was,

by

by the management of the ſeconds and by-ſtanders, by no means fairly though deciſively won.

The nobility and gentry who patronized this exerciſe, (and among whom were reckoned the firſt characters in the kingdom) having complained of the inconveniencies ſuſtained at Tottenham-court Booth, they prevailed on Mr. Broughton, who was then riſing into note as the firſt bruiſer in London, to build a place adapted for ſuch exhibitions. This was accordingly done in 1742, principally by ſubſcription, behind Oxford Road.

The building was called Broughton's New Amphitheatre; and, beſides the ſtage for the combatants, had ſeats correſponding to the boxes, pit and galleries, much in the ſame manner with thoſe at Aſtley's.

The following advertiſement in the ſpring of 1743, announced the opening of it to the public, though ſeveral matches had been fought in it before.

March 10, 1743.

" At Broughton's New Amphitheatre in Oxford " Road, the back of the late Mr. Fig's, on Tueſ- " day next, the 13th inſtant, will be exhibited " The true Art of Boxing, by the eight famed fol- " lowing men, viz. Abraham Evans, Sweep, Belos, " Glover, Roger Allen, Robert Spikes, Harry Gray, " and the Clog-maker. The above eight men are " to be brought on the ſtage, and to be matched " according to the approbation of the gentlemen " who ſhall be pleaſed to honour them with their " company.——Note, There will be a battle-royal " between the noted Buckhorſe and ſeven or eight " more; after which there will be ſeveral bye-battles " by others. Gentlemen are deſired to come by " times, by reaſon of the number of battles.

" The doors will be open at nine, and ſome of " the champions mount at eleven.

" No perſon to pay more than a ſhilling."

This undertaking of Mr. Broughton juſtly gave alarm to the proprietor of the Tottenham-court Booth, who immediately engaged Taylor, Stevenſon, James, and Smallwood, four firſt-rate champions, under articles like regular performers, not to fight on any ſtage but his.

Mr. Broughton's advertiſement was anſwered by the following appeal to the public:

" To all Encouragers of the Manly Art of Boxing.

" WHEREAS Mr. Broughton has maliciouſly ad- " vertiſed ſeveral battles to be fought at his amphi- " theatre, on Tueſday next, the 13th of March, " in order to injure me, who am to fight Mr. Field, " the ſame day at Tottenham-court, I think it in- " cumbent on me to undeceive the public, by in- " forming them the greateſt part of the perſons " mentioned to fight there never intended any ſuch " thing, or were ever acquainted with it. Mr. " Broughton has likewiſe inſerted in his bills, that " he never practiſed any impoſition on the cham- " pions who fought at his amphitheatre, and has in " vain endeavoured to make it appear, which gen- " tlemen will be ſenſible of, when an account of his " actions are ſet forth at large in print, which will " be done with all expedition.

" And to convince Mr. Broughton that I have no " diſguſt to his amphitheatre, I am willing to meet " him there and fight him for 100l. whenever he " pleaſes, not in the leaſt regarding (as he expreſſes " himſelf) the valour of his arm.

" GEORGE TAYLOR."

Mr.

Mr. Broughton, in his reply to this declaration, ſtated, that he had built his theatre at the expreſs ſolicitation and deſire of the public; that it had coſt him 400l. of which 80l. only were by contribution; and that having himſelf been at the expence of what was required beyond that ſum, he thought it but fair and reaſonable that he ſhould appropriate to himſelf a third part of the money collected at the door, the reſt going to the champions.

All the encouragers and principal amateurs of the ſcience gave their ſanction to Broughton's cauſe, and in the end all the profeſſors were obliged to come over.

Taylor and his confederates finding that their exertions could not prevent the Tottenham-court Booth from being deſerted for Broughton's more commodious theatre, like the ſeceding actors in the Haymarket, gave up the conteſt, on condition that Mr. Broughton engaged to make good the loſs they ſuſtained by the forfeiture of their articles; they agreed to leave the Booth, and to fight no longer but on his ſtage.

Mr. Broughton now became ſole manager and proprietor of the Boxing Theatre, engaged all the firſt performers, and raiſed many pupils, who were afterwards expert profeſſors of the gimnaſtic art.

Among them the following were the moſt celebrated:

George Taylor, commonly called George the Barber, from his other profeſſion; he was reckoned next to Broughton.

James and Smallwood, who were called by Mr. Theophilus Cibber the *deliciæ pugnacis generis*.

George Stevenſon, who maintained for a long time, with doubtful ſucceſs, a hard ſtruggle with Broughton himſelf.

Field the ſailor, who died near Tyburn turnpike in 1752, formerly a man of courage in collecting on the road between London and Hounſlow.

Benjamin Boſwell and Patrick Henly, who were two celebrated champions.

John Francis, commonly called the Jumping Soldier.

William Wallis, known by the name of the Fighting Quaker.

The two laſt named perſons fought twice, and the former was always victorious.

John Smith, better known by the appellation of Buckhorſe. He was not a good boxer, but famous for taking a ſevere drubbing.

Edward Hunt, a pupil of Broughton's, and the beſt man in the kingdom of his weight and inches. He fought men from all parts of England and of every ſize; and among them the Slaughterman, who weighed 17 ſtone, or 238 pounds, when he (Hunt) was no more than 9 ſtone, or 126 pounds, which was an odds of nearly two to one againſt him, however he was the victorious champion!—Here we may obſerve that Broughton's ſkill was ſuperior to that of any other profeſſor of the art, and as is obſerved in the firſt part of this Treatiſe, vaſtly ſuperior to the athletic ſcience of the preſent day.

Beſides theſe, and many others who were pugiliſts, there was another kind of prize fighters, who practiſed the ſword, quarter-ſtaff, &c. who exhibited their ſkill on Broughton's ſtage.

The moſt famous amongſt theſe heroes was Johnſon the Yorkſhireman, the next John Needs of Froome, in Somerſetſhire, commonly called the Green Knight.

Beſides the above quarter-ſtaff champions there were Thomas Hodgkins, who was called the Proud Salopian, and in 1746 kept a ſchool for the exerciſe of

of the cutlaſs, and William Holmes an Iriſhman, who fought Johnſon twice with the broad-ſword, and was beaten by him both times, but afterwards challenged the other to the naked faulchion, which Johnſon declined.

The principal Champions at Broughton's Amphitheatre are thus deſcribed by Captain Godfrey, in a publication which he gave under his name about forty years ago.

" ADVANCE brave Broughton! Thee I pronounce captain of the boxers! As far as I can look back I think I ought to open the characters with him. I know none ſo fit, ſo able to lead up the van.—What can be ſtronger than to ſay that for ſeventeen or eighteen years he has fought every able boxer that has appeared againſt him, and has never been yet beaten?--This being the caſe we may venture to conclude from it.

" But, not to build alone on this, let us examine further into his merits. What is it that he wants? Has he not all that others want, and all the beſt can have? Strength equal to what is human, ſkill and judgment equal to what can be acquired, undebauched wind, and a bottom ſpirit never to pronounce the word *enough!* He fights the ſtick as well as moſt men, and underſtands a good deal of the ſmall ſword.

" This practice has given him the diſtinction of time and meaſure beyond the reſt. He ſtops as regularly as the ſwordſman, and carries his blows truly in the line. He ſteps not back diſtruſting of himſelf to ſtop a blow, and fiddle in the return with

an

an arm unaided by his body, producing but a kind of fly-flap blow, ſuch as the paſtry-cooks uſe to beat thoſe inſects from their tarts and cheeſe-cakes. No, Broughton ſteps bold and firmly in; bids a welcome to the coming blow; receives it with his guardian arm; then, with a general ſummons of his ſwelling muſcles, and his firm body ſeconding his arm, and ſupplying it with all his weight, pours the pile-driving force upon his man.

" That I may not be thought particular in dwelling too long on Broughton, I leave him with this aſſertion, that as he (I believe) will ſcarcely truſt a battle to a warning age, I ſhall never think he is to be beaten till I ſee him beat.

" About the time I firſt obſerved the promiſing hero upon the ſtage, his chief competitors were Pipes and Gretting. He beat them both (and I thought with eaſe) as often as he fought them.

" Pipes was the neateſt boxer I remember. He put in his blows about the face (which he fought at moſt) with ſurpriſing time and judgment. He maintained his battles for many years by his extraordinary ſkill againſt men of far ſuperior ſtrength.

" Pipes was but weakly made; his appearance beſpoke activity, but his hand, arms, and body, were but ſmall; though by that acquired ſpring of his arm, he hit prodigious blows; and I really think, that at laſt when he was beat out of his championſhip it was more owing to his debauchery than the merit of thoſe who beat him.

" Gretting was a ſtrong antagoniſt to Pipes. They contended hard together for ſome time, and were almoſt alternate victors.

" Gretting had the neareſt way of going to the ſtomach (which is what is called *the lower mark)* of any man I knew. He was a moſt artful boxer, ſtronger made than Pipes, and dealt the ſtraighteſt blows,

blows. But what made Pipes a match for him was his rare bottom, ſpirit, and manlineſs, which would bear a great deal of beating, but this in my mind Gretting was not ſufficiently furniſhed with; for, after he was beat twice together by Pipes, Hammerſmith Jack, a mere ſloven of a boxer, and every body that fought him afterwards, beat him.

" I muſt, notwithſtanding, do that juſtice to Gretting's memory to confeſs that his debauchery very much contributed to ſpoil a great boxer; but yet I think he had not the bottom of the other.

" George Taylor, known by the name of George the Barber, ſprung up ſurpriſingly. He has beat all the chief boxers but Broughton. He, I think, fought him (injudiciouſly) one of the firſt, and was obliged very ſoon to give out; doubtleſs it was a wrong ſtep in him to commence a boxer by fighting the ſtanding champion; for George was not then twenty years old, and Broughton was in the zenith of his age and art.

" Since that time he has greatly diſtinguiſhed himſelf with others. He is a ſtrong able boxer, who with a ſkill extraordinary, aided by his knowledge of the ſmall and back-ſword, and a remarkable judgment in the croſs-buttock fall, may conteſt with any.

" But pleaſe or diſpleaſe I am reſolved to be ingenious in my characters. Therefore I am of opinion that he is not overſtocked with that neceſſary ingredient for a boxer called *bottom*; and am often inclined to think, and really ſuſpect, that blows of equal force with his too much affect him, and diſconcerts his conduct.

" Before I leave him let me do him this juſtice to ſay, that if he were unqueſtionable in his bottom, he would be a match for any man.

" It

" It will not be improper after George the Barber to introduce one Boſwell, a man who wants nothing but courage to qualify him for a complete boxer.

" He has a particular blow with his left hand at the jaw, which comes almoſt as hard as a horſe kicks. Praiſe be to his power of fighting, his excellent choice of time and meaſure, his ſuperior judgment in diſpatching forth his executing arm! But fie upon his daſtard heart, that mars it all! As I know the fellow's abilities and his worm-dread ſoul, for I never ſaw him beat but I wiſhed him to be beaten.

" Though I am charmed with the idea of his power and manner of fighting, I am ſick of the thought of his wanting courage. Farewell to him, with this fair acknowledgment, that if he had a true Engliſh bottom (the beſt fighting epithet for a man of ſpirit) he would carry all before him, and be a match for Broughton himſelf.

" I will name two men together whom I take to be the beſt bottom men of the modern boxers, and they are Smallwood and George Stevenſon the coachman; I ſaw the latter fight Broughton for forty minutes. Broughton I knew to be ill at that time; beſides it was a haſty made match, and he had not that regard for his preparation as he afterwards found he ſhould have had. But here his true bottom was proved, and his conduct ſhone.

" They fought in one of the Fair-booths at Tottenham-court, railed at the end towards the pit. After thirty-five minutes, being both againſt the rails and ſcrambling for a fall, Broughton got ſuch a lock upon him that no mathematician could have deviſed a better.

" There he held him by this artificial lock, depriving him of all power of riſing or falling, till he reſted his head for three or four minutes on his back, he

he found himſelf recovering; then he looſed the hold, and, on ſetting to it again, he gave the Coachman as hard a blow as any he had given him in the whole battle, ſo that he could no longer ſtand, and his brave contending heart, though with reluctance, was forced to yield.

" The Coachman is a moſt excellent markſman, he put in his blows faſter than Broughton, but then one of the latter's told for three of the former's. Pity ſo much ſpirit did not inhabit a ſtronger body!

" Smallwood is thorough game, with judgment equal to many, and ſuperior to moſt. I know nothing Smallwood wants but weight to ſtand againſt any man; and I never knew him beaten ſince his fighting Drimmock (which was in his infancy of boxing, and when he was a mere ſtripling in years); but by a force ſo ſuperior, that to have reſiſted longer would not have been courage but madneſs. If I were to purchaſe a boxer for my money, and could but purchaſe ſtrength to his reſolution, Smallwood ſhould be the man.

" James I proclaim a moſt charming boxer; he is delicate in his blows, and has a wriſt as delightful to thoſe who ſee him fight as it is ſickly to thoſe who fight againſt him. I acknowledge him to have the beſt ſpring of the arm of all the modern boxers; he is a complete maſter of the art, and as I do not know he wants a bottom, I think it is a great pity he ſhould be beat for want of ſtrength to ſtand to his man.

" I have now gone through the characters of the moſt noted boxers: as I could not praiſe all in every article, I muſt offend ſome; but if I do not go to bed till every body is pleaſed my head will ach as bad as Sir Roger's.

" I declare that I have not had the leaſt thought

of

of offending, and therefore this declaration ſhall be my quiet draught.

" Let me conclude with a general call to the true Britiſh ſpirit, which, like pureſt gold, has no alloy.

" How readily would I encourage it through the moſt threatening dangers, or ſevereſt pains, or pledge of life itſelf!

" Let us imitate the glorious example we enjoy in the ſaving offspring of our King and bleſſed guardian of our country. Him let us follow with our keen ſwords and warm glowing hearts, in defence of our juſt cauſe and preſervation of Britain's honour."

Thus far have we related the memorable occurrences of this art, under the auſpices of the grand maſter of the ſcience, Mr. Broughton, as recorded by Captain Godfrey and others, who were diſtinguiſhed for their taſte in athletic exerciſes, which muſt neceſſarily commence the modern part of our hiſtory.—Now we ſhall, in as compendious a manner as is conſiſtent with our plan, narrate the tranſactions upon record ſince that period, which compriſe a term of almoſt forty years, by which the reader will be acquainted with every circumſtance that occurred during that period; and by a compariſon of the abilities with which the celebrated Broughton and his pupils were poſſeſſed, with thoſe of the champions of the preſent day, be able to form an opinion which method to adopt *, in caſe

* Though much the ſame in theory, yet the modern practice is defective in overſtepping the rules and maxims of the art, by which indiſcretion many battles are loſt. For Broughton held every particular of his academical mode to be indiſpenſibly neceſſary in real action; therefore it may be obſerved he made excellent pugiliſts.

of

of an attack from an inferior, to the order of combat in the firſt part of this work, to which we beg leave to refer the reader.

The Broughtonian ſchool began to decline about the year 1754, and was much neglected towards the end of the laſt reign; in ſo much, that, about the beginning of the preſent reign, there were not five perſons of note in the art to be found, who could with any degree of propriety be ſaid to be ſkilled in the ſcience, or upon whom betts could be laid as men of integrity.

About the year 1760 ſeveral new faces appeared in public, who pretended to great ſkill in the ſcience of bruiſing, but were, for the moſt part, a ſet of drunken, diſſipated, idle fellows, and ſeldom gave any ſatisfaction to amateurs in the art, when they reſpectively exhibited their talents in a practical manner.

Amongſt whom the following perſons are only worthy of notice.

John Anderſon, a corn porter, who pretended to have received his inſtructions from Broughton, for ſome time was the champion of the water-ſide, ſo far as to bully all his acquaintance in caſe they denied to ſupply him with pecuniary loans. However he was matched by a waterman of the name of Bowles, who was no proficient in the art, nor in anywiſe ſkilled in athletic exerciſes, unleſs what he acquired by his calling, for he was accounted a ſtrong robuſt man, and an experienced waterman.

The challenge ſent by the latter to the former was received with all the contempt imaginable by Anderſon, who was that night preſident of a club at the Green Man in Rotherhithe, where he read aloud the "impudent ſcrawl," as he termed it, of the waterman, and in a haughty ſtyle propoſed to incloſe it in a ſheet of ſoiled paper to the writer, with a line of advice, to be aware of a horſe-whip and the tip of

his

his noſe: but in this bravadoing propoſal he was overruled, and the club forced him to accept of the challenge, and an anſwer was returned as follows:

" Mr. Bowles,

" By the perſuaſion of ſome friends I have accepted " of your invitation to Kennington on Tueſday next, " but adviſe you to think of your raſhneſs before you " repent it too late.

" JOHN ANDERSON."

The following advertiſement appeared in the Craftſman and Daily Advertiſer, in conſequence of ſuch challenge:

April 6, 1760.

" In conſequence of the Rotherhithe hero and the Blackfriars Bembo having agreed to ſhew their *Brotonian* ſkill on Kennington Common, where a ſtage is to be erected for that purpoſe; the Carpenter who has been at the expence and riſque of the ſame acquaints the public that the fight is fixed for Tueſday next at one o'clock, but the gallery will be open at ten, at 1*s*. 6*d*. per head.

By this advertiſement it appears that the *Brotonian* exerciſe was put under ſome reſtrictions, as no name appeared in the advertiſement; and the words *expence* and *riſque* plainly ſhew that the builder had ſome apprehenſions, as alſo that he was to have the profits of thoſe ſeats for his trouble, as neither of the combatants were poſſeſſed of a guinea in the world, and by a ſubſcription of their friends raiſed 10l. as a reward for the victor.

Accordingly they fought, but as neither were poſſeſſed of abilities in the art, the fight was more the exerciſe of two Billingſgate or Wapping female fiſh dealers than of men; for ſhort fiſting, ſcratching, and trips, were the whole of their art, for a period of three quarters of an hour, when the Waterman was declared

declared victorious, which had ſuch an effect upon the vanquiſhed braggadocio, that he left the kingdom in a few months afterwards, and went as an emigrant to America.

James Doyle, an Iriſh chairman, was another champion, but a man of no knowledge in the art, otherwiſe he would have been a boxer of bottom, as he wanted neither reſolution or ſpirit for a complete boxer, which are the two principal ingredients for it.

Another countryman of his named Nicholas Grady was an excellent cudgel player, but by no means a good boxer; for, inſtead of attending to the manœuvres of his antagoniſt, he only had an eye to his own poſition, by which he loſt that great battle on Barnet Common in September 1761, whereby his patron Mr. Dennis O'Kelly was ſuppoſed to have loſt not leſs than a ſum of ſix hundred pounds!

The ſucceſsful champion, whoſe name was Perkinſon, was a higgler in Fleet-Market, and, by the advantages he reaped from this bruiſing match, was enabled to take a Public-houſe in Old-ſtreet, as it was ſaid he realized upwards of two hundred guineas by the battle.

The victor, who was a native of Barnet, was much leſs in ſtature than Grady, (who was every way a luſty man) and very light limbed, which gave occaſion to the honeſt Hibernian to ſwear "By Jaſus I'll "double him and put him in my pocket, ſpindle "ſhanks and all!" However in this he was miſtaken, for the little Barnet poulterer (as he was called) ſoon made him confeſs his inability to ſuch a taſk.

Thomas Morton, a Weſtmoreland man, and one O'Neal an Iriſhman, were the beſt maſters and ſportſmen this time afforded, for they were both men of bottom and tolerable ſkill, and gained the prize alternately, for O'Neal got the day at Hampſtead, and Morton at Turnham Green.

Soon after theſe days ſprung up a ſwarm of little

champions, but none better than hardy labourers or handy-craftſmen; for although moſt of them could bear a conſiderable ſhare of beating, yet none were ſufficiently ſkilled in the art, ſo as to afford any diverſion, or be men upon whoſe heads a ſum could be laid, for an artful trick about this time took place, namely, "The Shying of the Stag," as it was called; that is to ſay, either of the combatants were to be brought in, and the victory given to him who had the odds againſt him, therefore this ſhy fighting greatly tended to reduce the rage for manly feats of ambidextrian ſkill, and for ſome time was ſo little attended to by former ſportſmen that nothing more than private matches were fought.

Some time after this dearth of ſport Peter Corkoran "was imported," (as Mr. O'Kelly ſaid), and challenged all competitors.

Haſkins the hatter, Sellers the ſawyer, Manning the butcher, and ſeveral others, were oppoſed to this Iriſh hero, but for ſome time he was the Broughton of the day, for he was victor over all opponents.

Shellany, Morgan, Bruce, Darts, Harding, and ſeveral others, now were champions, and revived the courage of the times, and again the art was brought into credit.

Berryman, the ſailor, was alſo a good boxer, but by his own imprudence loſt all protection, and became a prey to his extravagant turn, and died in the London hoſpital.

Having gone through ſome of the principal characters of late date, we ſhall conclude our hiſtory with an obſervation or two upon theſe champions who claim the attention of the preſent day.

Firſt, we ſhall rank Mr. Thomas Johnſon as the principal hero, as he ſtands unrivalled, and is, in our opinion, the beſt boxer in the kingdom, as he wants

neither

neither ſkill nor courage to maintain his cauſe; and by fair fighting is the only ſucceſſor in the athletic art to Mr. Broughton, as he ſtands to his man much upon the ſame plan as that excellent maſter.

Next to him we account Mr. Richard Humphreys, as the beſt ſkilled in the Modern Art of Boxing, but we muſt obſerve that theſe two perſons uſe different methods in attack, engagement, and retreat; however, we ſhall with juſtice and impartiality pronounce Humphreys to be the greateſt in ſcience next to Johnſon.

Mr. Michael Ryan, we think, had he been as well ſkilled as either of the former, would be an equal match to any man in the kingdom, be his proweſs what it may; but we are ſorry to ſay that he is by no means a man of any abilities that can entitle him to a biographical rank as a boxer.

Mr. Daniel Mendoza is, in our opinion, an excellent boxer, and in his advance is very great indeed; but in his engaging attitudes falls ſhort of upper guards, by which he leaves his covering open to the oppoſer. But, without depreciating any thing from this riſing champion's merit, we pronounce him to be a very good boxer, and may, with ſome improvement, be adequate to riſk a trial with any we know of. We think it neceſſary to hint to him, that was he leſs afraid of blows than he ſeems to be, he would fight much better, and enſure himſelf greater ſucceſs; for in the late conteſt with Humphreys, the former ſeemed to feel his hurts, whilſt the latter was heated with ſpirit to retaliate; hence any flinching of bottom ſubjects a champion to be vanquiſhed, and a reſolution and a ſkillful arm can enſure almoſt any man of ſucceſs.

Mr. Tring, Big Ben, and many others of leſſer note, beſides a ſwarm of new-comers, and riſing heroes of the preſent day, who, if we were to be bio-

graphers as well as hiſtorians, ſhould equally claim our attention; therefore as we have not made any ſuch propoſal, nor would it be in anywiſe intereſting to the reader to engage his attention to read over a detail of private characters, whoſe occurrences would probably be altogether heterogenial to the mode we have adopted,—then, upon this concluſion, we ſhall paſs over all further mention of the living characters of the preſent time, and conclude our hiſtory with a remark upon the utility of this art, notwithſtanding the invidious attacks of puſillanimous coxcombs, who, we are always happy to ſee, receive the reward of their merit either from the genteel bendings of a cane or the beautiful callico of an horſewhip—and, agreeably to our ſentiments in the preface, declare, that we are of opinion, that, inſtead of raiſing our national character to ſavage ferocity and cruelty, as ſome of our puny public prints have lately ſet forth, it would cultivate a manly ſpirit and a nobleneſs of ſentiment, with an aſſurance of courage to oppoſe our natural enemies: was this art univerſally practiſed as a branch of liberal ſcience, it would enable the gentlemen, artiſt, farmer, and tradeſman, at all times to oppoſe the deſigns of the ruffian, who generally builds his ſucceſs on the ſtrength of his arm, ſo that many nocturnal depredators would be diſappointed in their booties, and lives and property often times ſecured; added to this great advantage, the inſults of inferiors would at all times be chaſtiſed by thoſe who were ſkilled in this noble, excellent, and manly art, whereby many benefits would be inſured to ariſe from a general knowledge of its principles.

956
1 SN

F I N I S.

BRITISH MUSEUM 10 NOV 54